

Removing Smoke Odor From Your:

Home

- Open windows to allow air to circulate and get rid of smoke.
- Some companies specialize in removing the smoke odor from walls and some household items, called an “ozone treatment” or “thermal fogging”. Contact a professional cleaning service for more information.
- Normal household cleaning products can cause toxic fumes and other hazards if they are mixed together. Do not mix together bleach and ammonia. This will create toxic fumes that may be deadly if inhaled.

Clothing

- Removing odors from your clothes may be challenging due to the wide variety of fabrics available. Generally, it is best to launder washable fabrics rather than dry cleaning. If you are unsure about cleaning, contact a professional cleaning service.
- You will likely have to wash your clothes a few times to remove all odors. Shake out as much soot as you can from the clothing before washing.
- The following page includes tips on how to remove the smoke odor from your clothing.

To wash your clothing:

1. If possible, contact a dry cleaner that performs an “ozone treatment” on clothing to deodorize smoke before washing.
2. In addition to your regular laundry detergent, add one of the following:
 - 1 cup of white distilled vinegar,

OR

 - 1 cup of baking soda
3. If there is heavy smoke, consider pre-soaking your clothes in the detergent.
4. Wash for at least 2 cycles or until odor is removed. Do not overstuff the washer to get the best results.
5. Rewash using the steps above if the odor still remains in the clothes. Do NOT put the clothes into a dryer if the odor remains.
6. Hang clothes out in the fresh air to dry and remove lingering odors.

CAUTION: Do not mix vinegar with bleach – this will release dangerous fumes.

Clean Household Items

Electronics:

- Do not use water and soap to clean any affected electronics. Instead, use a vacuum to suck out soot and wipe with a dry cloth.
- Allow electronics to dry before plugging into any outlet. Disconnect and check appliances for water damage and broken connections before using them.

Furniture:

- Allow furniture to dry indoors and open windows and doors for ventilation.
- Do not dry your furniture in the sun as the wood will warp and twist out of shape. Remove drawers to allow the furniture to dry thoroughly.
- Soot can be removed from upholstered furniture by using a strong vacuum.

Walls and Floors

Painted walls:

- Before repainting, wash out smoke and soot using a mixture of 6 tablespoons detergent, 1 cup bleach, and 1 gallon water. Wear rubber gloves when cleaning.
 - For best results, consult a professional for an “ozone treatment” to remove smoke particles from walls before repainting.
- Rinse thoroughly and do not paint until walls are completely dry.

Washable Wallpaper:

- Wallpaper may be washed like painted walls. Be sure not to wet through the paper.
- Ventilate the room for several days to dry the plaster and wallpaper.
- If the wallpaper is mildewed, wipe it with a cloth rinsed in thick soap suds and then clean with clear water.

Linoleum Floors:

- When water is underneath linoleum and remains for a period of time, odors appear and a breakdown of the wood begins.
- Remove or lift the linoleum from the floor to dry the wood underneath. Contact a floor covering specialist for assistance.

Dishes and Cookware

Dishes and cookware should be cleaned and sterilized to get rid of chemicals, bacteria, and oily soot before they are used for eating and cooking.

Mildew and Mold

Mildew is a mold growth that starts forming in damp indoor environments within 24-48 hours of water exposure, often from the water used by firefighters. Severe mold may eventually weaken or rot fabrics and wood. Mold can also affect your health by causing allergic reactions, headaches, and other symptoms. ***Tip:** prevent mold by opening windows and doors as soon as possible to air out and dry your home.*

- Remove mold by scrubbing with 1 cup of bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water. Let dry.
- To remove mildew, wash with soap and water. Rinse well and dry.